

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
17 September 1968
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

I. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

A regular monthly meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on 17 September 1968. The members met, pursuant to notice, in executive session at 9:48 a.m. with William Walton, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: William Walton
Gordon Bunshaft
Theodore Roszak
Aline Saarinen
Hideo Sasaki
Chloethiel Woodard Smith
John Walker

Staff: C.H. Atherton, Secretary
Lawrence M. Luskey
Nancee W. Black
Myra Younker

NCPC: David MacKinnon

Recorder: Gloria Horning

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. Dates of Next Meeting

Tuesday-Wednesday, 15-16 October 1968 were approved and 19-20 November tentatively selected for the following month.

2. Approval of the Minutes for the June 1968 Meeting

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Budget Estimates, FY 1970

The Secretary reported that \$115,000, the same amount as last year would be adequate for necessary expenses, including the summer program and printing publications pertaining to that program.

The Commission approved the estimated amount.

4. Dupont Circle Fountain - Proposed Changes

The Secretary reported that the National Park Service had placed Belgian blocks in the area between the base of the fountain and the fence

where ivy had been planted. The Commission had previously recommended that a series of granite steps encircle the base. Since the fence no longer served a specific purpose he suggested that it be removed.

The members approved his suggestion and the National Park Service was notified.

EXHIBIT A

5. Georgetown Historic Waterfront (Added)

The Secretary reported that \$5,000 additional copies were being printed by the Government Printing Office. The members commended the staff on "the excellent work."

6. Confirmation of Actions Taken Since June 4.

The Secretary reported the actions taken by the Commission on the following projects.

a. National Transportation Safety Board - Proposed Insignia.

Approved design developed by the Department of Transportation Visual Arts Branch.

EXHIBIT B

b. National Capital Planning Commission - Acquisition of Lots 12, 13 and 14, Sq. 5094, addition to Watts Branch Parkway. Approved.

c. Smithsonian Institution - Proposed Geodesic Building on Site of National Air and Space Museum. Disapproved a geodesic dome on the Mall at Independence Avenue and 6th Street, N.W., which was considered a temporary structure.

EXHIBIT C

d. Department of the Army, Office of Chief of Support Services - Proposed Lighting of Arlington Memorial Amphitheater and Tomb of Unknown Soldier. A demonstration of the lighting is planned for the next meeting. Final action will be taken after the demonstration.

e. Treasury Department, Bureau of the Mint - Proposed Design of Medal Honoring Walt Disney. Approved design developed by Walt Disney Productions.

EXHIBIT D

f. National Park Service, National Capital Region - Approved legislation authorizing erection of statue of Benito Pablo Juarez which will be a gift from the Mexican people.

III. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

The Secretary presented and reviewed the following projects.

1. D. C. Redevelopment Land Agency

Proposed Development, Parcels 19 and 20, Maryland Avenue, 6th and

7th Streets, S.W. - Revised Design, Robert Venturi, architect.

As indicated on the model and drawings, changes from the previous plans included relocating the building on the site, eliminating the one-story commercial sections, and placing the shopping area under the plaza with parking underneath. The rectangular structure was planned for offices above stores which were located on the ground level.

The Secretary reported the concern of the developer in the elevations which had "no relief" between the windows and the precast concrete panels covering the frame. The "bland" facade was questioned by the RLA but the agency had approved the design.

The members thought the resiting and general massing were improvements. The rearrangement of the shopping areas was considered "imaginative".

The final action was withheld until a conference with the architect later.

2. D.C. Government, Department of Buildings and Grounds - Judiciary Square Master Plan, Justement and Callmer, architects and engineers.

A model and several drawings depicted two proposals for combining all D.C. Government offices into one area. Both schemes retained the Historic Hadfield Court House, created a pedestrian plaza, and proposed razing the Employment Security Building on Pennsylvania Avenue. In one plan, a high-rise building for the Court would replace two existing buildings south of the Pension Building. In the other, the complex remained essentially as it is with a new Court building west of the existing Federal District Court, facing Pennsylvania Avenue. The Secretary noted that the existing plan for the area, developed in 1927, was on axis with Ft. McNair.

The members felt that parts of both plans might be used. The plan which retained the existing complex south of the Pension Building was preferred but required additional study in the southwest section. Here, the other scheme with the Court building located on Pennsylvania Avenue might be used. They agreed that the Pension Building should not be over shadowed by a high-rise structure.

A conference with the architect was held later.

3. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

a. Federal Home Loan Building, 3rd and D Sts, N.W. - Proposed Design, Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon, architects.

Two models and several drawings indicated a building similar in shape and volume to the Tax Court proposed for the site east of this one. The architect had planned to match the cornice line of the Tax Court and Labor

Department buildings. The Secretary explained that the architect hoped to cover the freeway trench which separated the building from the Tax Court except for a pedestrian overpass. The Highway Department was opposed to this. A plaza was planned for the roof of the underground parking area.

The members considered the design generally acceptable and felt that the trench should be covered to the greatest degree possible.

Final action was withheld until a conference with the architect later.

b. Labor Department Building - Material Samples (With drawn)

4. D.C. Government, Department of Licenses and Inspections

Shipstead-Luce Act

a. American Institute of Architects Building, 1735 New York Ave., N.W. - Revised Design, Mitchell/Giurgola, architects.

At the previous meeting the Commission had requested that the "notch" be restudied. The design submitted, however, was the identical one submitted in June. The majority of the members felt that the design should be rejected since the problem of the "notch" had not been solved. The original recommendation of the Commission should be restated - build the necessary office space on the acquired Lemon site and retain the existing complex.

The thrust of the interview with the architect and AIA members which was scheduled later would be to ascertain why the design with the unacceptable notch was resubmitted.

b. S.L. 69-9, 601 D St., N.W., 10 story office building. Wilson, Morris, Crain and Anderson, architects.

A site model and drawings for a pre-cast concrete building with bronze tinted glass and dark bronze window frames were submitted for a site west of Judiciary Square. The fenestration on the elevation facing public alley was different from the pattern on the principal facades.

The members considered the design "inoffensive" but felt the fenestration should be the same on all elevations except the party wall on the north.

Final action was withheld until a conference with the architect later.

c. S.L. 69-10, 17th and H Sts., N.W., new office building. Weihe, Black and Kerr, architects.

A pre-cast concrete building was planned to replace the Transportation Building, one block north of the White House and across "H" Street from the

Decatur House Museum and FOB 7. Although the design was within zoning regulations the penthouse was unusually high.

The discussion centered on penthouses in relation to the skyline of the city in general. Commenting on the problem throughout the area, Mrs. Smith referred to a zoning study being conducted at this time. She felt the Commission might make "a statement, using this (design) as an example," which would encourage control over the design and specifically height of penthouses. The members decided to center this criticism on this feature and enquire if the architect couldn't find other solutions to the problem.

Final action was withheld until a conference with the architect later.

d. Appendix 1

There were no objections to recommendations by the staff on the Shipstead-Luce Applications listed on Appendix 1. EXHIBIT E

Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 69-31, 2901 M St., N.W., Proposed Theater

The members agreed with the Board of Architectural Consultants' disapproval of design for a Safeway Market and Theater at the terminus of the Pennsylvania Avenue axis.

The Commission's disapproval was reported to the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

b. Alley closing of Sq. 1204, 34th and Prospect Sts., N.W.

c. 26th St. closing between East Place and Q St., N.W.

These projects are before the District Council and the Commission could advise on them if deemed necessary. Closing the alley would mean re-zoning and most probably razing Halcyon House and building on its site and over the alley. Considered a landmark, the original house is buried under numerous additions and alterations. In the instance of the site on 26th and Q St., the Georgetown Citizens Association proposed a small park similar in character to the steps on 22nd and S Sts, N.W.

On the recommendation of the Chairman the members decided that new structures might improve both sites and that they should approve closing both the alley and street, if asked for an opinion by the City Council.

5. National Park Service, National Capital Region

a. Father Flanagan Memorial - Proposed Design. Paul T. Granlund, sculptor, and John S. Savage, architect.

Photographs of the proposed design and a small scale bronze model of Father Flanagan were submitted for the memorial to be erected on a small triangular-shaped area and on axis with the entrance to the National Shrine.

Mr. Foszak felt that the "incongruous quality" of sculpture had "no place in Twentieth Century Washington." The members unanimously rejected the proposed design.

A conference with the architect and sponsors of the memorial, scheduled later, was deemed appropriate since they had come from Omaha, Nebraska, to present the design.

b. Kenilworth Pool, Bath House and Community Building, Proposed Design by National Park Service Staff.

A model, site plan and preliminary drawings for a recreation building were submitted as a preliminary concept for a space frame structure. Details of the design would be given to an architect to develop later.

The members considered the concept unacceptable and recommended that an architect be given the program at its initial stage.

Final action was withheld until a conference with National Park Service representatives later.

6. Treasury Department, Bureau of the Mint

Proposed Design of Dartmouth College Bicentennial Medal

The members approved the design by Rudolph Ruzica, graphic artist.

The Commission's approval was forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint.

EXHIBIT F

IV. INTERVIEWS

1. D.C. Government, Department of Licenses and Inspections

AIA Building, 1737 New York Ave., N.W. - Revised Design

Mr. Kassabaum and Mr. Scheik, AIA representatives, and Mr. Giurgola and Mr. Mitchell, architects, attended the meeting.

Mr. Giurgola read his statement containing his reasons for resubmitting the design with the recessed "notch," which he considered "an integral part of the design and belongs to the personal interpretation of the architect." Replying to Mr. Roszak's question concerning the importance of the "notch" now when originally it had "no particular reason", Mr. Giurgola stated that "any kind of a design receives an interpretation after a certain point."

Mr. Kassabaum briefly commented on the project, in general, and the design problem of "trying to build an office in conjunction with a small residence in a past period." The transcript is submitted for the record.

EXHIBIT G

The members took no action at this time. Later, they voted 6 to 1 to disapprove the design. They agreed unanimously that any future discussions of this design with members of the AIA would be conducted as a group and not individually.

The Commission's disapproval was reported to the Department of Licenses and Inspections. The AIA was informed of the Commission's action. EXHIBIT H

2. National Park Service, National Capital Region

a. Father Flanagan Memorial - Proposed Design

Father Wegner, Director of Boys Town, John S. Savage, architect, and Paul Grundland, sculptor, attended the meeting.

Father Wegner presented the project and Mr. Savage commented on the materials to be used for the memorial. The members did not discuss the design at this time. Mr. Roszak was authorized to write a statement concerning the Commission's disapproval which will be published when appropriate at some future time.

The Commission's disapproval was forwarded to the National Park Service.

EXHIBIT I

b. Kenilworth Pool, Bath House and Community Building - Proposed Design.

Mr. Richard Kusek, architect on the National Park Service staff and other Park Service representatives attended the meeting.

Speaking for the members, Mrs. Smith stated that the plan was "poorly organized" and "terribly complicated" when it should be a "simple, handsome park facility." She requested that it be restudied "both in detail of building and organization" of functions.

The Chairman confirmed the Commission's disapproval of the design. Methods employed by the Park Service in designing park facilities were discussed. Although immediate approval was requested for the bath house and pool to permit construction before next summer, the members emphasized that the site plan and design had to be considered as a whole and no portion could be judged separately. They recommended that an architect be consulted in the initial stage of the program. This procedure would result in superior designs.

The Commission's disapproval and recommendations were forwarded to the Park Service.

EXHIBIT J

3. Freer Gallery of Art

Inspection of Proposed Acquisitions

Mr. Walton and Mr. Walker will inspect the acquisitions, proposed by Dr. Pope, at some later date.

4. D.C. Government, Department of Buildings and Grounds

Judiciary Square Master Plan

Mr. James Callmer, architect, and Mr. Gerald A. Purcell, Department of Buildings and Grounds, attended the meeting.

Mr. Callmer explained the two schemes for the area which would become Municipal Square, i.e., the major concentration of District offices would replace what are now judicial facilities, while the new courthouse would be located on Pennsylvania Avenue west of the Federal District Court. The basic concept was to separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic by creating a pedestrian plaza, adjoining the subway exit. He commented on the problems of subway structure and grade. An underground passageway would connect the two court buildings. The plan met the requirement of the court to have two floors per courtroom. The arcade element of buildings designed according to the Pennsylvania Avenue Plan was questioned.

Mr. Walton replied that the Commission was interested in a "decisive mass that defines" that particular point on Pennsylvania Avenue where it intersects with Constitution.

No action by the Commission was necessary since the project is in a very preliminary stage. Speaking for the members, Mr. Sasaki stated that elements of both plans were good and should be combined: the location of the new courthouse on Pennsylvania Avenue plus the low flanking office buildings to the east and west of the Pension building worked very well as a total scheme. Mrs. Saarinen mentioned that strengthening the design of the side buildings would contain the square. No comment could be made pertaining to closing D St. until after a tour of the area.

The following project adjacent to Municipal Square was discussed in relation to this one.

5. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

Federal Home Loan Building, 3rd and D Streets, N.W. - Proposed Design

Mr. David Condon, architect, attended the meeting.

Mr. Walton stated that the Commission would recommend that a pedestrian access be developed over the highway trench separating the building and the Tax Court building.

The discussion centered on the site problems which included the subway and grade, and on the podium element of the design. The architect felt the podium was essential to overcome the grade and have the columns the same length. He stated that this feature required additional study to simplify it. Mr. Bunshaft suggested a retaining wall, where the land sloped, might be the solution to the problem of the podium.

Mr. Sasaki reported the Commission's approval of the design, in general, and complimented the architect on relating his design to surrounding buildings. It was also recommended that every effort be made to build the connecting bridge and plaza across the inner loop trench in front of the tax court.

The Commission's approval and recommendation that the podium be restudied were forwarded to the General Services Administration. EXHIBIT K

6. D.C. Government, Department of Licenses and Inspections

a. S.L. 69-9, 601 D St., N.W., 10 story office building

Mr. Wingfield representing the architect attended the meeting.

Speaking for the members, Mr. Sasaki expressed their approval of the design provided the fenestration on the principal facade is repeated on all elevations except the party wall.

Mr. Wingfield agreed with the Commission's decision and will attempt to persuade his client to accept it.

The Commission's action was reported to the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

b. S.L. 69-10, 17th and H Sts., N.W., new office building

Mr. Edwin Weihe, architect, attended the meeting.

Speaking for the members, Mr. Bunshaft stated that the design lacked interest. The vertical motif needed some horizontal contrast. The penthouse height was questioned. He suggested that the whole plane of the penthouse wall might slope giving a horizontal relief to the design which needed to be simplified.

The Commission's request that the design be restudied was reported to the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

7. D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency

Proposed Development, Parcels 19 and 20, Maryland Ave., 6th and 7th Sts., S.W. - Revised Design

Mr. John Rauch, architect, attended the meeting.

Mr. Bunshaft, speaking for the members, stated that the site plan was improved but that the building should be "on center". The facade pattern repeated in the paving was "unarchitectural."

Mr. Rauch commented that the architect wanted the facade "very abstract and flush" with the paved area and needed to be "the same value as the paving on the plaza." Exterior material having a reflective surface such as polished granite would be used.

Mr. Bunshaft requested that exterior material should be presented in "relation to paved areas, green areas, and (surrounding) building." He urged the architect to design the "best building for our time for that site."

The Commission's approval in general of the site plan and the request for further study of the facades was reported to the Redevelopment Land Agency.

Exhibit 2.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

5 November 1968

Dear Mr. Castro:

Among other Park Service items on our agenda on September 17th, the Commission looked at photographs of the recent changes to the Dupont Circle fountain. We were delighted to see that the eternal mud wallow around the base of the fountain has now been replaced with granite blocks which is certainly an improvement.

Now it would seem that the ugly iron fence surrounding the fountain can at last be eliminated because it serves no purpose. The Commission hopes you agree.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. Nash Castro
Regional Director
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT A

5 August 1968

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

The Commission of Fine Arts has reviewed the design of the National Transportation Safety Board insignia and has no particular objection to it.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. Joseph J. O'Connell, Jr.
Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board
Department of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20591

EXHIBIT B

5 August 1968

Dear Mr. Johnston:

The Commission of Fine Arts has reviewed the proposal for a Geodesic Dome on the National Air and Space Museum site and is opposed to it.

I am afraid that the history of temporary buildings in Washington is too formidable a hurdle to overcome. I think the best thing to do is to get together with the National Park Service and look over other possible sites. I am sure there must be some place that we can all agree on.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. S. Paul Johnston
Director
National Air and Space Museum
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT C

5 August 1968

Dear Miss Adams:

The Commission of Fine Arts has reviewed the designs for the Walt Disney Medal and has approved it.

The medal is truly "Mickey Mouse" both literally and figuratively.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. Atherton
Secretary

Honorable Eva Adams
Director
Bureau of the Mint
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT D

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS

NO ADDRESS AND OWNER

PROJECT

SL 69-

2 601 D St., NW

Houston Assoc. Limited Partnership

ACTION: Returned for additional information. Rqst submission of small scale block model showing relationship of proposed building to surrounding areas. 8/15/68

4 515-15th St., NW
Hotel Washington

Remodel entr. canopies-15th St., F St., Pa.Ave. F St. 1st fl. elevation: Chg. 2 windows to door openings. Remove 5 windows & block up openings with masonry & stucco. 15th St. Elev: Chg. wood windows to alum., ground fl. & basement. Pa. Ave. Elev. Chg. 1 window to door opening & basem. windows from wood to alum. ACTION: Approved provided that arched marquee adjacent to entrance on F St. is eliminated and that shed type awning be extended over entrance. 8/8/68

Inf. 1400-22nd St., NW

5 DEN Assoc. (Richard J. Donohoe)

Constr. 5-fl. office bldg.

ACTION: Disapproved. Character of proposed bldg. unsuitable. Major elements and details of design are eclectic and are inconsistent with the expression of a modern office bldg. Suggest restudy along more contemporary lines. AUG 14 1968

6 1329 E St., NW
Union Trust Co.

3 signs reading Union Trust Co. 18.75 Total Sq. Ft. of Lettering

ACTION: Approved. 8/8/68

3 4155 Linnean Ave., NW
Marjorie Merriewether Post

Small one room structure with basement designed to simulate a Russian dacha. To house a collection of Russian artifacts.

ACTION: Approved. 7/29/68

1 400 First St., SE
F.G.T.Corp. (Restaurant)

Repair & make alterations to install equip. & nec. svcs for restaurant/bar.

ACTION: Approved. 7/24/68

AUG 15 1968

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS (Cont.)

PROJECT

ADDRESS AND OWNER

NO
SL 68-

65 2425 Va. Ave., NW
McLachlen Natl Bank
ACTION: Approved. 6/20/68

Rework exist. signs to read "McLachlen National Bank"

66 40 Ivy St., SE
Henry Pratt

Cover exist. stucco with aluminum siding. White color.

ACTION: Approved provided new windows match exist. in proportion and design. 6/25/68

9/17/68

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS

PROJECT

ADDRESS AND OWNER

NO
OG 69-

8 s-f signs, temporary (Nixon-Agnew Campaign Signs).

1401 Penna. Ave., NW
Wash. Willard Corp.

ACTION: App'd., as a tempo. sign until 11/6/68 provided proposed bunting & portrait signs are on canvas or similar material & are not illuminated on either side. No comment on size of sign area, which is in excess of usual S-L specifications for signs, 9/4/68.

Resubm. of SL 68-50.

30 E St., SW
C & P Telephone Co.
App'd., 9/10/68.

ACTION:

601 D St., NW
Houston Associates
Limited Partnership

10-story off. bldg. with sub-grade park. structure. Structural frame to be reinforced concrete, exposed on exterior of bldg.

ACTION: App'd., provided that there is uniform fenestration on all elevations of bldg., with the exception of party wall. Request resubm. of drawings. Material samples subm'd. app'd., 9/17/68.

801-17th St., NW
Transportation Bldg.

12-story off. bldg. with 1st fl. commercial space & 3 basem. levels of parking.

ACTION: Ret'd. for add'l. study of details of principal elevations & penthouse massing. No obj. to general design concept of bldg., 9/17/68.

9/17/68

NO
OG 69-ADDRESS AND OWNERPROJECT

18

3261 K St., NW
Wilkins Rogers Milling Co.

Repaint sign. Resubm. of drawings as requested in OG 69-4.

ACTION:

Recom'd., 8/2/68.

22

3344 M St., NW
American Security Corp.

Remove exist. showwindow. Replace w/constr. proposed in accompanying plans.

ACTION:

Not recom'd. Replace projecting copper hood with simple fascia & moulded cornice typical of a small shop. Also repropotion lights in showwindow & doors to match proportions of lights in 2nd fl. windows, i.e., higher than wide, 9/17/68.

23

1054-31st St., NW
Canal Square Assoc.

Revised elevation - 31st St.

ACTION:

Recom'd., 9/11/68.

24

1805 Wisc. Ave., NW
Commercial

Constr. new 25' wide addn. length of bldg. & constr. new masonry facade.

ACTION:

Recom'd., provided all elevations, & roof plan showing mechanical equipm. projection through or otherwise located on roof, be submitted. Also request sample of brick. Action does not apply to sign which is disap'd. & should be subm'd. under separate appl., 9/12/68.

25

1655 Wisc. Ave., NW
Winston H. Wrenn

Light fixture shown on drawing A-1.

ACTION:

No. obj., 9/11/68.

26

1227 Wisc. Ave., NW
Paramount of Georgetown

Store front color scheme & 6 panel door. Brick sample.

ACTION:

App'd., provided that either the brick sample that is used be matched by painting the front facade, or that brick that is used be painted to match the rest of the bldg., 8/30/68.

NO OG 69-	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
27	3214-16-18 P St., NW Wilhelmina Adams (Commercial)	3 s-f signs. One on P St. One on Wisc. Ave. Logo to be placed over door. Black plastic ltrs.
ACTION: Not recom'd. Style of ltr. & project. transformer box unsuitable. Suggest capital ltrs. in classical style be mounted directly on face of brick, 9/17/68.		
28	1064-31st St., NW Canal Sq. Assoc.	Raze rowhouse in order to permit remodeling & new constr. around landmark warehouse.
ACTION: No obj., 9/4/68.		
29	2812 P St., NW Mr. David Rust	New staircase & hall.
ACTION: Ret'd. for add'l. inf. Subm. section, roof plan, or other appropriate material in order to clearly depict projection of dormer through roof, 9/13/68.		
30	3252 Q St., NW Mr & Mrs John Blair	Revised plans as requested. Light fixture centered. Fixtures noted #6 & #4.
ACTION: No obj., 9/5/68.		
32	2900 M St., NW International Bazaar, Inc.	6 s-f signs. 40 sq-ft total area. Black & red ltrs. on white bckgd.
ACTION: No obj., 9/11/68.		
33	3146 Dumbarton St., NW Levy & Snyder	Subm. of new brick samples. Previously app'd. brick cannot be obtained from source of supply.
ACTION: Recom'd. brick samples with buff mortar in order of pref: (1) Cherokee Georgetown as supplied by L.C. Smith, Inc., or (2) Chatham #75 Handcraft brick as supplied by Cherrydale Jefferson, 9/13/68.		

9/17/68

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS (Continued)

PROJECT

ADDRESS AND OWNER

NO
OG 69-

37 1226 Wisc. Ave., NW
Don King (Commercial)
ACTION: Alter front of bldg. for theater entr. & side of bldg. for
& treatment of doors & windows on 1st fl. out of scale with rest of bldg., 9/17/68.
garage entr. Copper hood is cumbersome and heavy in appearance,
unsuitable. Not recom'd. Character of elevations unsuitable.

Inf.
31

2901 M St., NW
Theodore & Jas. Pedas

1-story commercial bldg. 2 revised elevations omitting
keystones, small-paned windows, & moulded cornice. Incl. site
plan, fl. plan, & partial sections. In addn., Scheme #4 for
comparison of arches & brick color.
ACTION: Not recom'd. Refer to action on OG 68-113 & subsequent subms. After reviewing extensively the
design studies for this project over a considerable period of time, but particularly the more recent subms.,
the Comm. concludes the resulting studies are unacceptable. It must be emphasized that this site is on axis
with Penn. Ave. & forms the principal entr. into a Nat'l. Historic District of the Capital, therefore adding
add'l. responsibilities on the developer to meet these special conditions, 9/17/68.

NO
OG 69-ADDRESS AND OWNERPROJECT

9 1074-76 30th St., NW 1 d-f, 36 sq-ft sign on pole

F.E., W.E., & W.C. Carter (Park. lot)

ACTION: Not recommended. Suggest design more appropriate to scale and character of surrounding area.
(See new signs at remodeled Sinclair Gas Station, 3000 M St.) AUG 26 196811 3007 Cambridge Pl, NW
Philip HuberInstall alum.-glass sliding door unit on 1st fl.
rear wall. Install new front door in exist. opening.

ACTION: No objection. 8/13/68

12 3415 Dent Pl., NW
Jas. Mooreman

Install 1 front entr. bracket light.

ACTION: Not recommended. Suggest a simpler design, omitting fake oil reservoir on bottom of lamp. AUG 26 1968

13 3146 Dumbarton St., NW
Sam'l Levy & John Snyder, Jr.

Revised door.

ACTION: No objection. 8/13/68

14 1335-30th St., NW
Arthur Fawcett

Install bracket light fixture at front entr.

ACTION: No objection. 8/13/68

15 3252 Q St., NW
Mrs. John Blair

Remove exist. porch and dress front.

ACTION: No objection provided light fixture is centered between door and window. Rqst detail of lamp design. 8/13/68

16 1054-31st St., NW
Canal Square Assoc.

Rev. of 31st St. elev. of previous subm.

ACTION: Suggest further study of elevations on 31st St. Also recommend return to original scheme on western end of elevations facing canal. 8/13/68

17 1222-26 Wisc. Ave., NW
Don C. King

1 s-f, 24 sq.-ft sign. Flat against bldg. Black
ltrs. on white bckgd. Temporary real estate.
ACTION: Not recommended. Sign too cluttered with advertising. Suggest a simpler design be placed in
show windows on first floor 18 inches back from surface of glass. AUG 26 1968

19 3150 K St., NW
D.C. Govt.

Raze building

ACTION: Recommended. 8/13/68

20 1307 35th St., NW
Janet Saxon

Addn to existing bldg & remodel exist. bldg.

ACTION: Not recommended. Differentiate old and new wings by setting back new wing. Also recommend
omission of skylight over bathroom preserving general character of roof line. AUG 26 1968

21 1400 Wisc. Ave., NW
Excaliber Inc.

Sign

ACTION: No objection. 8/13/68

5 November 1968

Dear Miss Adams:

The Commission of Fine Arts is pleased to report the design for the Dartmouth Bi-Centennial Medal was approved at its meeting on September 17, 1968.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Honorable Eva Adams
Director, Bureau of the Mint
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT F

MR. ATHERTON: The AIA are here, so should I ask them to come in?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Is there anything for us to cover, before they come in?

MR. ATHERTON: These projects are up before lunch-time.

V. INTERVIEWS

D.C. Government, Department of Licenses and
Inspections

S.L. 69- , AIA Building, 1735 New York Ave.,
N.W. - Revised Design

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Good morning, gentlemen.

Gentlemen, this is a resubmission that has come to us only at 10 o'clock this morning.

I wonder if Mr. Giurgola is here?

MR. GIURGOLA: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: If you want to come up.

In our transmittal to the AIA, we had disapproved the previous submission saying that the recessed notch between the wings was unacceptable. As far as we can read this here it has the recessed notch as previously rejected.

We were curious as to why it was resubmitted.

MR. GIURGOLA: We resubmitted it and we wrote a

statement on that score. After your rejection, we submitted again to the board of the AIA and it was accepted at the board of the AIA. We went back to work trying to comply with your recommendation as to the best of our knowledge. We wrote, in the end, this statement.

The acceptance of the present design by the Commission of Fine Arts is conditioned on the elimination of what has been called a "notch," a recess in the interior elevation of the building. We feel that such an element, almost invisible from the street and deep into private property, is an integral part of the design and belongs to the personal interpretation of the architect.

We have complied with the objections to the first solution with:

- a. A reduction of the building height, based on a new program that the AIA furnished to us.
- b. The preservation of the present garden up to and including the existing wall and the enlargement of the garden beyond it.
- c. An approved use of materials.
- d. A new pattern of fenestration.

We cannot make changes to the present preliminary solution without abdicating our integrity as architects and

without betraying the confidence placed in us by our client.

We respectfully ask the Commission of Fine Arts to reconsider the previous rejection and to approve the present solution thus enabling us to proceed to more advanced stages of the project.

As I say -- if you would allow me to comment on that -- we made further studies and we found out that really this question of this recess is of fundamental importance for us on a four-score basis.

One is the entrance from -- and I submit this is a preliminary solution -- the entrance from New York Avenue and the way is the wall and all, this element of architecture brings slowly into the real entrance of the building itself. In other words, we don't have an entrance on this facade which makes that as a subsequent building.

But we have an entrance at this point. We want to signify that entrance to make some kind of a gesture to this situation that is so peculiar in the building which is the entrance itself.

The second element is the character of the garden itself and the tremendous amount of space involved in it, the dynamic of this place which is even stronger when you think that the GSA Building is on this side. So we felt that the

opaque corner wouldn't help in releasing somehow this tension taken by two elements alone, which are these two open spaces.

Therefore, we thought that some kind of release of this intensity into the building will help describe the entrance to make more effective the appropriation of this wall into the open space.

The other element, the third one, was the relation with the structure. We have tried to maintain the lower floor as anonymous as possible and use a very simple kind of structure, not one of recommended character. That is, not a sequence of columns but something that is more sympathetic with that wall. Therefore, one column.

And with that situation created that the corner structure become a difficult thing to arrange, once it is not free from the connection.

Finally, we thought that as in plan, as from this drawing, there were no harm, really, function of the plan itself in leaving that space free. As a matter of fact, if we could give light to this end of this usable space, we could give light to the exit from the elevator so that as soon as you come out from this vestibule you have a constant view of this open space and daylight.

And we couldn't use properly that space any way

for public use, for use. In other words, we are trying to make a building where the entrance is definitely here, that you approach it being 50 feet away, 20 feet away, and finally close to this kind of plan which is reflected by this vertical articulation.

So that is why we, in spite of other studies, we found that all the other studies were transforming this particular notion that has been stated so clearly in the competition. We have been working on that particular statement which really asks and we endorsed that from the first day we started to think about this building, apart of the other consideration, an exciting demonstration of a fresh concept of contemporary architecture with the fine architecture of the other period, which statement gives the other more meaning and contributing to the delight of the entire building complex.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Do any Commission members have any questions?

Mr. Sasaki?

MR. SASAKI: No.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Mrs. Smith?

MRS. SMITH: No.

MR. ROSZAK: I remember previous discussions that

we had. If I am not mistaken, Mr. Bunshaft raised the question of why that notch was there, why did you have it. And I think your comment was, if I remember it, it was for no particular reason.

I am curious to know why it now becomes a doorway, an entrance way. Is this an afterthought?

MR. GIURGOLA: No. This actually is in the statement I made previously. I would say that the gesture is made or is based on certain rationalities, but obviously any kind of design receives an interpretation after a certain point.

I think these are the four points in which now we are basing our rational explanation, which are a reiteration of what I said before here, really.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Mr. Walker?

Mrs. Saarinen?

Mr. Bunshaft?

MR. BUNSHAFT: No.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Well, as you gentlemen know, we have been over this a good many times. We will take this new-old building presentation under consideration.

Thank you very much.

MR. Kassabaum : Mr. Walton, I am George Kassabaum, the President of the Institute.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: How do you do.

MR. *Kassabaum* : I did want to assure you that the board, through its committees, has carefully studied the project. I suppose, in retrospect, we maybe shouldn't have tried to build an office building in conjunction with a small residence in a past period. This was, perhaps, a basic error.

We have carefully reviewed the scheme and feel that it does meet our functional needs.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: We feel the error hasn't yet been made, because the building hasn't been built.

MR. *Kassabaum* : That is true. We do need the space. We do need to expand as the architectural profession becomes more involved in urban matters. We do need a strong, dynamic headquarters. I think we feel strongly that the profession of architecture should be dynamic.

We are not trying to make a statement for all time here. But to say architecture represents a planned force in the community is contrary to what at least I personally believe and what I believe the profession believes. We look at the headquarters building as being a symbol of what we feel is the problem of building new buildings in present cities and coming up with something which makes the urban environment pleasant.

The committees and the board consistently felt we have solved our problem for us. I would just like to make that statement to you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you. We agree with your objectives completely.

MR. *Korontium* : Thank you.

MR. BUNSHAFT: I have one thing. There is one small problem. You have two symbols. You have the Octagon and the building. That is the whole problem that is somehow trying to be resolved by everybody. I think that is the nut of the thing.

MR. *Korontium* : I would agree that we have the two symbols. The continuity of the past and the dynamic future. I don't think there is an inconsistency. But it is not an eas~~x~~ task.

MR. BUNSHAFT: It is a difficult problem.

MR. *Korontium* : Yes, it is.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you.

(The AIA group left the room.)

CHAIRMAN WALTON: This is an awfully hard thing to let them have a little time, because we have rejected it on grounds that they won't understand.

MRS. SAARINEN: That is why I said to you: Can they

19 September 1968

Dear Mr. Scheick:

Following our September 17th meeting with you and the architects of the new headquarters for the Institute, the Commission of Fine Arts voted to reject the design.

The submission, of course, is the same one we viewed at our June meeting; our action, however, was taken only after carefully considering Mr. Giurgola's statement.

As you know, members of the press were not present and we have no plans to make any release to the papers, but I am sending a copy to Mr. Julian P. Green of the District License Department who has asked that he be kept up to date on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. William H. Scheick
Executive Director
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT H

5 November 1968

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

At its meeting on September 17th, the Commission of Fine Arts inspected designs for the proposed memorial to Father Flanagan.

I have been slow in writing to you because I found it difficult to frame a statement of the Commission's view. The members were unanimous in disapproving the proposed design. Each member had different objections, but seemed to agree that the basic difficulty was in the sculptor's general approach. He proposed a group of figures scattered like effigies rather than a group of figures united in a design with some spiritual content.

Sculpture, we feel, should be primarily symbolic and never literal. To do honor to Father Flanagan on this site it would be far better to create something of much greater simplicity and we hope that the designers will work in this direction.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director, National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT I

5 November 1968

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

The Commission of Fine Arts looked at plans for a new community facility and swimming pool in Kenilworth Park at our meeting on September 17th.

We find the design of this project unacceptable. The site is poorly organized and the building even more so. We hope the entire design can be given a fresh look.

In the meantime in order to avoid delay in construction of the swimming facilities we suggest that a master plan for the building and pools be developed so that we can review them at the earliest possible time. It should be entirely feasible to work up a scheme which would allow the construction of the outdoor swimming facilities to proceed independent of the rest of the program. Mechanical equipment and locker facilities could be included in a temporary structure of simple design, even the sanitary facilities could be temporary. In this manner there will be no delay in the use of the swimming pool and greater time will be afforded in the development of a suitable building design.

We would be happy to review any new studies of the site as soon as they are ready.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT J

5 November 1968

Dear Mr. Knott:

As part of a study of the entire Judiciary Square area, the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on September 17th reviewed the plans for the Federal Home Loan Office Building at 3rd and D Streets, N.W.

We think that it is a very good building and represents an excellent start in developing other blocks in the immediate vicinity surrounding the old Court Houses and Pension Office Building.

We discussed the base of the building and entrances to the subway in some detail with the architects but I don't think it is necessary to belabor them here. He assured us, and we have confidence that these matters will be given further study.

An important part of the design, of course, is the plaza and underground parking facility immediately to the east of this project with the connecting bridge on axis with the main entrance to the new U.S. Tax Court on 3rd Street, N.W. As you know, the Tax Court is situated right on the brink of the Center Leg of the Inner Loop and a plaza spanning the road as envisioned by the architect would greatly help the setting of the Tax Court. We have heard that the Highway Department is somewhat reluctant to consider such a bridge but I hope GSA can exert every effort in this direction. It would certainly improve the appearance of this entire federal complex, as well as adding to circulation and parking facilities.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. Lawson B. Knott, Jr.
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT K

5 November 1968

Dear Mr. Appleby:

This will confirm the Commission's approval of the revised site plan for Parcels 19 and 20 on Maryland Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets, S.W. at its meeting on September 17th.

We felt the over all scheme was greatly improved. We now look forward to seeing an imaginative development of the architectural expression of the building. Unfortunately the sketches that we saw showed a very bland and unrelieved treatment of the facade. In fact there was little difference between the paving pattern and the building itself. Surely the architect can do better than this.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. L. Thomas Appleby
Director
D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency
1420 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT L

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
17 September 1968

AM

10:15

I. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. Dates of Next Meeting
Executive Session: 15 October 1968
Open Session: 16 October 1968
2. Approval of Minutes of June 1968 Meeting
3. Budget Estimates, FY 1970
4. Dupont Circle Fountain - Suggested Changes
5. Confirmation of Actions Taken Since June 4
 - a. National Transportation Safety Board - Proposed Insignia - Confirmation of Action
 - b. National Capital Planning Commission - Acquisition of Lots 12, 13, and 14, Sq. 5094, addition to Watts Branch Parkway
 - c. Smithsonian Institution - Proposed Geodetic Building on Site of National Air and Space Museum
 - d. Department of the Army, Office of Chief of Support Services - Proposed Lighting of Arlington Memorial Amphitheater and Tomb of Unknown Soldier
 - e. Treasury Department, Bureau of the Mint - Proposed Design of Medal Honoring Walt Disney
 - f. National Park Service, National Capital Region - Selection of site for statue of Benito Pablo Juarez

III. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

1. D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency
Proposed Development, Parcels 19 and 20, Maryland Avenue, 6th and 7th Streets, S.W.-Revised Design
2. District of Columbia Government, Department of Buildings and Grounds
Judiciary Square Master Plan

3. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

- a. Federal Home Loan Building, 3rd and D.Sts., N.W.-Proposed Design
- b. Labor Department Building - Material Samples

4. D.C. Government, Department of Licenses and Inspections

Shipstead-Luce Act

- a. S.L. 69- , AIA Building, 1735 New York Ave., N.W.-Revised Design
- b. S.L. 69-9, 601 D St., N.W., 10 story office building
- c. S.L. 69-10, 17th and H Sts., N.W., new office building
- d. Appendix 1

Old Georgetown Act

- a. O.G. 69-3/, 2901 M St., N.W., Proposed Theater
- b. Alley closing, Sq. 1204, 34th & Prospect Sts., N.W.
- c. 26th St. closing, between East Place & Q St. N.W.
- d. Appendix 2

5. National Park Service, National Capital Region

- a. Father Flanagan Memorial - Proposed Design
- b. Kenilworth Pool, Bath House & Community Bldg.-Proposed Design

6. Treasury Department, Bureau of the Mint

Proposed Design of Dartmouth College Bicentennial Medal

V. INTERVIEWS

- 12:00 D.C. Government, Department of Licenses and Inspections
S.L. 69- , AIA Building, 1735 New York Ave., N.W.-Revised Design
- 12:15 National Park Service, National Capital Region
a. Father Flanagan Memorial - Proposed Design
b. Kenilworth Pool, Bath House & Community Bldg.-Proposed Design
- 12:30 Freer Gallery of Art
Inspection of Proposed Acquisitions
- 2:30 D.C. Government, Department of Buildings and Grounds
Judiciary Square Master Plan
- 3:00 General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service
Federal Home Loan Building, 3rd and D Sts., N.W.-Proposed Design
- 3:15 D.C. Government, Department of Licenses and Inspections
a. S.L. 69-9, 601 D St., N.W. 10 story office building
- 3:30 b. S.L. 69-10, 17th and H Sts., N.W., new office building
- 3:45 D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency
Proposed Development, Parcels 19 and 20, Maryland Ave., 6th and 7th Sts., S.W.-Revised Design

